

REMARKS

The Applicants sincerely appreciate the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Actions of February 4, 2003, and August 6, 2003, and the Advisory Action of September 11, 2003. In particular, the Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 13, 16, 17, 21, 24, 26, 29, 30, 37, and 39 are allowed and that Dependent Claims 12, 34, and 38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's indication (in the telephone conversation of November 5, 2003) that the subject matter of Dependent Claim 25 is allowable and that Claim 25 should be listed as "objected to".

In response, the Applicants have amended Claim 5 to include all recitations of Claim 12 (indicated allowable); canceled Claim 10; canceled Claim 12; amended Claim 18 to include all recitations of Claim 25 (indicated allowable); canceled Claim 23; canceled Claim 25; amended Claim 31 to include all recitations of Claim 38 (indicated allowable); and canceled Claim 38. These amendments have been made to place this application in a condition indicated allowable by the Examiner to thereby advance prosecution of this application to allowance. These amendments have been made without prejudice to the Applicants' right to pursue canceled and/or amended claims as they existed prior to cancellation and/or amendment in a continuing application.

Accordingly, the Applicants submit that all rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above. A Notice of Allowance is thus respectfully requested in due course. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone should any additional issues need to be addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

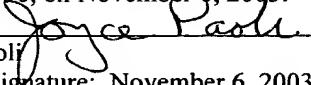

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In re: Daniel J.C. Herr et al.
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF; Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 6, 2003.


Joyce Paoli
Date of Signature: November 6, 2003